An Account of the Extraordinary Cure of a Horſe that was Staked into his Stomach; communicated by the Reverend Dr. John Wallis, D. D. R. S. Soc.

'THIS is to give you an account of a late Accident, which ſeems to me very conſiderable, and worth obſerving. My Son (Mr. *John Wallis*, of *Soundeſs* by *Nettle-bed* in *Oxfordſhire*) had a Horſe, which this laſt *Summer* 1695 (ſometime after *Midſummer*, in Harveſt-time) leaping over a Hedge, chanced to ſtake himſelf; and ſo dangerouſly that the Stake entred far into his Body, and (as appeared afterwards) into the Cavity of his Maw or Ventricle. What time of the day this happened, we know not; but a Boy being ſent to fetch home the Horſe, rode home upon him about four of the Clock in the Afternoon, without diſcerning the hurt, till (upon his alighting) he found his own Legs bloody, and then diſcerned the Wound, ſomewhat behind the Fore-legs, a little inclining to one ſide; and the Stake which hurt him, was ſince found bloody. A Farrier was then ſent for, (*Thomas Biſhop* the Younger of *Wallingford*, about five miles off;) who chanced not to be at home, but was gone to a place more than five mile farther; ſo that he came not to *Soundeſs* till after ten of the Clock at Night. When he came, he ſearched the Wound, with his Finger, as far as he could reach, and brought out with it ſome Graſs, newly chewed; whereby he found plainly that it had pierced the Coats of the Ventricle, into the Cavity of the Maw; and was giving it over as deſperate, and that it was to no purpoſe to proceed further. But then conſidering that the Horſe could but dye, he reſolved to try what might

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'might be done. He firſt (having the Horſe on his 'Back) inlarged the Wound in the outer Skin, and 'Rimb of the Belly, (by cutting it wider) that he 'might come at the Maw; where he found the Wound 'to be at leaſt three inches long; he then removed the 'Maw outward, and (while he was preparing his Needle 'and Thred) he ordered one of the Servants (*Robert 'Watmore*) to cleanſe the Maw from what was in it, as 'being leſs likely to gangrene when empty; who thruſt-'ing in three Fingers and his Thumb (the Wound there 'being large enough to receive them) pulled out the 'chewed Graſs, and what he found there. The Maw 'being thus cleanſed, the Farrier ſewed up the Wound 'therein, and then thruſt the Maw back into the Body; 'and then ſewed up the Wound in the Rimb of the Belly: 'The Wound in the outward Skin he did not ſow up, 'but only tacked it looſly together about the Middle, 'leaving room on both ſides to put in Tints and Medi-'cines for the healing of it. The Horſe after this con-'tinued for ſome time much indiſpoſed, but in a Month 'or ſix Weeks time (with careful attendance) the wounds 'were cloſed and perfectly cured: And the Horſe work-'ed at the Plow and other Services as before; and hath 'ever ſince continued ſound and well, and was now late-'ly ſold, (to an Horſe-courſer) for double the price that 'he coſt. I thought fit to give you theſe particular cir-'cumſtances, from the Mouth of my Son, and of the 'forementioned Servant, who was concerned in the 'whole proceſs.

'This ſeems to me a good confirmation of a ſtory we 'had many Years agoe (*de Pruſſo Cultrivoro*) of a *Pruſ-'ſian*, who was ſaid (I know not by what chance) to have 'ſwallowed a Knife into his Stomach; whereupon, his 'ſide was opened, an inciſion made in the Stomach, the 'Knife thence taken out, the Wound then ſewed up, and 'the Man recovered. Which hath been looked upon as

'a ſtory

'a ſtory very ſtrange and hardly credible; but is ren-
'dred more credible by this parallel Operation.

John Wallis.

On this Occaſion it may not ſeem improper to ſubjoyn an Account we have not long ſince received from *Germany*, of a very uncommon Caſe of this Kind, the Relation whereof follows.

ANno 1691. Jan. 3. *in a Village called* Maſchwitz, *about a league from* Hall *in* Saxony, *a Country Lad, by name* Andrew Rudloff, *about* 16 *years of Age, playing tricks with a Knife in his Mouth, and hapning to fall with it, the Knife accidentally ſlipt down his Throat into his Stomach; being in all about* $6\frac{1}{2}$ *Inches long, with a Harts-Horn Haft. It were long to inſert the Symptoms, as Pains, Vomitings,* &c. *that followed thereupon; but the Curioſity of the Caſe did oblige M.* Wolfgang Chriſtopher Weſenern, *Phyſitian to the* Elector *of* Brandenburg, *to take care of him and adminiſter Medicines proper for his relief.*

The Knife was felt to have changed its poſition ſeveral times, and after a few Months ceaſed to be very troubleſom; and in about a year was ſo much diminiſhed, as to be difficult to be felt from without. Not long after an angry Tumour with Inflammation broke out, three fingers breadth below the Pit of the Stomach, which being ripened, the Apoſthem was opened May 24. 1692. *and being kept open, the Point of the Knife firſt appeared thereat* July 18. *following. The Point they faſtned with a Silk Thread, and the wound being widened, the Knife was drawn out thereat* Auguſt 2. *a Tear and ſeven Months after it had been ſwallowed, and in a little time the Lad was perfectly well. The Knife was exceedingly conſumed in all dimenſions, as may be ſeen in the Printed Account that was publiſhed by the aforeſaid Phyſitian, and Printed at* Hall, *where the thing was done; ſo that there is no room left to doubt of the truth thereof.*

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